

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 110015
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
SCS-06 OPR-02 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
/069 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:KBROWN:DAM
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACoon
NEA - AGLASPIE

-----114010 291443Z /43

P 291426Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110015

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS:PEPR, AF, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBOFF INQUIRES ON AFGHANISTAN COUP

1. SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY ALEXANDER ZOTOV CALLED ON NEA/
PAB DIRECTOR COON APRIL 28 TO DISCUSS AFGHAN EVENTS.
ZOTOV CLAIMED AT OUTSET THAT HE HAD AS YET NO REPORTS FROM
MOSCOW, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD MFA WOULD BE SENDING OUT
REPORT QUOTE PERHAPS TODAY UNQUOTE. HE OPINED THAT THE
SOVIET EMBASSY IN KABUL WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND OUT AND
REPORT MUCH TO MOSCOW UNDER CURRENT CONFUSED AND HAZARDOUS
CIRCUMSTANCES. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES
AT EMBASSY WHO HAD SERVED IN KABUL SOME YEARS AGO HAD
DESCRIBED THE LEADING OFFICER IN THE COUP AS A QUOTE
NATIONALIST, AND ANTI-MONARCH UNQUOTE, BUT ALLEGEDLY NOT
WELL KNOWN TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN KABUL AT TIME. (ZOTOV ALSO
CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN UNAWARE OF FACT KADIR HAD RECEIVED
TRAINING IN USSR, ALTHOUGH THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED IN US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 110015

MEDIA). HE DID PROMISE TO KEEP COON INFORMED IF HE RE-
CEIVED AN OFFICIAL REPORT FROM MOSCOW.

2. ZOTOV OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT THE QUOTE
LESS TURBULENCE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, THE BETTER IT
IS FOR US. UNQUOTE HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE IN USSR'S

INTERESTS TO HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN AFGHANISTAN FROM A QUOTE CALM, STABLE SITUATION, UNQUOTE AND DESCRIBED USSR-AFGHAN RELATIONS AS TRADITIONALLY QUOTE NORMAL AND QUIET UNQUOTE. HE REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THESE WERE PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, AND THAT HE COULD GIVE NO AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT UNTIL HE HAD SOME WORD FROM MOSCOW.

3. ZOTOV ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY DECLARATION FROM KABUL WHICH WOULD INDICATE THE POLITICAL COLORATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, OR WHETHER WE HAD ANY CONFIRMATION THAT DAOUD HAD BEEN KILLED.

4. COON REPLIED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF ONLY STATEMENTS COMING FROM AFGHAN RADIO, WHICH DESCRIBED NEW GOVERNMENT AS DEDICATED TO ISLAM, NEUTRALITY AND PEACE. WE HAD NO INFO OTHER THAN RADIO REPORTS ON DAOUD'S WELFARE/ WHEREABOUTS. THE US POSITION WAS THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD, THAT IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTERESTS THAT AFGHANISTAN BE INDEPENDENT, AND THAT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN AFGHANISTAN. COON CONTINUED THAT OUR FIRST CONCERN WAS THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS; AT PRESENT, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, AMERICANS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE SAFE. THE SITUATION SEEMS TO BE QUIETING DOWN AT THE MOMENT. WE HAVE NO REPORTS ON THE SITUATION OUTSIDE KABUL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 110015

5. FOR MOSCOW: ZOTOV GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF WANTING TO BE EXTREMELY FORTHCOMING, AND MOST OF HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS WERE VOLUNTEERED. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY WORKED IN MFA NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS, AND KNEW POL/EXT OFFICER MILES. IF EMBASSY HAS ANY OBSERVATIONS ON ZOTOV WHICH MIGHT BE HANDY HERE IF WE CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE WITH HIM, THEY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE110015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KBROWN:DAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780184-0052
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978041/aaaaaami.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d38b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2812683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET EMBOFF INQUIRES ON AFGHANISTAN COUP
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, PINS, PINT, AF, UR
To: MOSCOW KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d38b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014